



NEDERLAND YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

(Updated May 9, 2025)

DEFINITIONS

NYFA: acronym Nederland Youth Football Association

Association: Nederland Youth Football Association, Board of Directors, and its membership

League: Golden Triangle Youth Football & Cheer, Board of Directors, and its membership

ARTICLE I: NAME & BOUNDARIES

SECTION 1. This organization shall be known at Nederland Youth Football Association, herein referred to as NYFA. It shall function as a non-profit organization organized exclusively for educational and youth sport purposes.

SECTION 2. "Nederland Youth Football Association shall have territorial boundaries to include Nederland Independent School District. Any legal age child which attends N.I.S.D. or lives within said boundaries and attends a private school are eligible to participate in NYFA.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVE

It shall be the purpose of this association to function as a non-profit organization organized exclusively for educational and youth sports. It shall be the goal of NYFA to provide youth, regardless of race, gender, color, creed, or economical background, the chance to learn the values of teamwork, good sportsmanship, discipline, and self-respect through football and cheer; to bring all other communities together through a common interest in sports; to promote fair play; to teach the game elements promoting safety, enjoyment, and healthy competition.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The membership of this association shall consist of any parent or guardian of a child who participates in Nederland Youth Football Association, regardless of race, gender, color, creed, or economical background.

SECTION 2. The membership of this association shall consist of any adult who was under Section 1 and/or Section 2 of this article, and desires election or appointment to the Board of Directors of this association.

SECTION 3. The membership of this association shall consist of any adult volunteer who desires election or appointment from the Board of Directors of this association.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1. NYFA shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be selected per Article IV.

SECTION 2. The Executive Board of Directors shall consist of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Football Commissioner. Additional Board Members will consist of Field Coordinator, Safety Coordinator, Equipment Manager, Fundraising & Sponsorship Coordinator, Cheer Coordinator, Concessions Coordinator, Player Representative Flag Division, Player Representative Peewee Division, Player Representative Junior Division, and Player Representative Senior Division. Additional positions will be Delegates to GTYFC.

SECTION 3. Regular meetings of NYFA will be held each month at a site to be determined by the Board of Directors at the end of each previous meeting. Except for Special Called Executive Board Meetings, all meetings of this association shall be governed by procedures set forth in "Robert's Rules of Order". NYFA shall be held in strict compliance of all State and Federal rules and regulations which pertain to non-profit, incorporated youth sports organizations.

SECTION 4. Special meetings are those in which an immediate resolution is required and said resolution cannot be delayed until the next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. Only an executive officer may call for a special meeting. Contact, if practical, should be made to all officers. If necessary, the Executive Board may use a telephone or online poll to adopt or reject a resolution. Special meetings should be held at a public location however if some measure of privacy is required, the meeting may be held in confidence in a more private area (i.e., officer's home). Minutes of said meeting should be taken and made available at the next regular meeting. In addition, a full account of the special meeting proceedings should be given by the officers present at said meeting to the Board of Directors at the next regular meeting. If a special meeting is required, the Executive Board, without the Board of Directors, may adopt or resolve the issue.

SECTION 5. A minimum of two (2) executive officers are required to hold a regular or special meeting.

SECTION 6. A simple majority of Board Members shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present or available, the planned meeting shall be considered null and void and recorded as same due to lack of quorum. *Example: If NYFA has 15 Board Members, 8 must be present to constitute a quorum.*

SECTION 7. *President:* It shall be the responsibility of the President to preside over all association meetings, to supervise the operations of the associations, and to enforce all association and league rules and regulations.

SECTION 8. *Vice President:* It shall be the duty and responsibility of the league vice-president to serve as president in the absence of the president, to assist the president in the successful operation of the association, to attend each association and league meeting, and to enforce association and league rules and regulations.

SECTION 9. *Secretary:* It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to maintain an accurate written record of all GTYFC business; to inform the public of all activities pertinent to the successful operations of the GTYFC and assist the President in the successful operation of the GTYFC and its mission. It shall also be the responsibility of the Secretary to help promote all GTYFC events, announcements, etc. on social media, etc.

SECTION 10. *Treasurer:* It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to receive all money of NYFA, maintain an accurate record of all receipts, expenditures, finance records, and issue a statement of financial account at every monthly meeting of NYFA. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to maintain custody of the organization's

checks. The monies of NYFA shall be deposited in a bank selected by the Executive Board; withdrawals shall be authorized with signatures of the President or the Treasurer. At the end of the treasurer's term of office, he/she must, within 72 hours, return all legal holdings to NYFA Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall file in a timely manner with the Internal Revenue Service as required by the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 11. *Football Commissioner:* It shall be the duty of the Football Commissioner to communicate functions and information of the NYFA to the divisions by directing the Player Representatives with their respective responsibilities. The Football Commissioner will ensure that the coaches and Player Representatives are fully prepared for player certification.

SECTION 12. *Field Coordinator:* It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Field Coordinator to secure practice facilities with proper approval from the school district as well as prepare the game field for play, and coordinator clean up after each game.

SECTION 13. *Safety Coordinator:* It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Safety Coordinator to investigate and document injuries of the players. The Safety Coordinator will also administer the league insurance policy and documents. The Safety Coordinator will verify compliance of equipment to NOCSAE standards and verify qualified first aid kits are at all practice and game sites. The Safety Coordinator will make themselves and their responsibilities known to all coaches by the end of the first week of practice and is required to attend the Parents' Meeting at the start of the season along with Coaches of each division.

SECTION 14. *Equipment Manager:* It shall be the duty and responsibility of the equipment manager to receive all equipment, maintain records of distribution, account for it and manage it, inspect equipment prior to re-issue for the next season, and to make sure the equipment meets NOCSAE standards.

SECTION 15. *Fundraising & Sponsorship Coordinator:* It shall be the duty of the fundraiser & sponsorship coordinator to plan, organize, and follow through with fundraising events and to seek donations from sponsors to raise sufficient funds to maintain the operation of the association.

SECTION 16. *Cheer Coordinator:* It shall be the duty and responsibility of the association cheer coordinator to enforce the association and league cheer rules and to coordinate between the league and association.

SECTION 17. *Concessions Coordinator:* It shall be the duty and responsibility of the concessions manager to maintain, coordinate, and govern all activities of the concession stand at all games.

SECTION 18. *Player Representatives (Flag, Peewee, Junior, Senior):* It shall be the duty of the Player Representatives to act as the liaisons between the players, players parents/guardians, and Coaches. Player Representatives will make themselves and their responsibilities known to all of the coaches by the end of the first week of practice and are required to attend the Parents' Meeting at the start of the season along with Coaches of their respective division.

SECTION 19. *Delegates:* It shall be the duty and responsibility of the delegate from the association to attend each league meeting, to provide a copy of the association's constitution and by-laws each year, and to represent the association in the league meetings. The delegate will be a NYFA board member.

SECTION 20. *Sub-Committee Chairman:* It shall be the duty and responsibilities of the Sub-Committee Chairman to chair any committees that are formed to explore, resolve, and/or improve the activities or rules of the association.

SECTION 21. Each Board position, except for the President position, warrants the power of one vote. The only time the President is allowed to vote is in a tie situation. A tie vote shall be resolved by a majority of votes cast by the President.

SECTION 22. An individual, other than the President, may hold more than one position on the Board of Directors, but under such circumstances, the individual does not accumulate additional voting power. Each individual has the power of one vote. The exception of this rule is taken when resolving ties.

Section 23. The terms of office for NYFA Board Members shall be a period of two (2) years. The term of office shall begin at the first meeting of January of each year.

ARTICLE V: VACANCIES

SECTION 1. In the event of a vacancy on the Board or associate council due to any reason, the charter association affected shall name a new board member or associate council to represent them within 14 calendar days and remit that name to the GTYFC Board for acceptance.

ARTICLE VI: SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Candidates for positions on the “Board of Directors” are elected. The election will be held the last home game of the current season. Elected board members will take office at the first regular meeting of the new calendar year. January board meeting.

ARTICLE VII: BOARD MEMBER REMOVAL

SECTION 1. Any board member who has missed more than three events without just cause shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors to determine if removal and replacement is necessary.

SECTION 2. Any member whose actions are detrimental to the successful operation of this association or whose actions violate the rules and regulations of the association, or the league shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors to determine if removal and replacement is necessary.

SECTION 3. Any board position unfilled during the annual election or vacated by removal or resignation shall be filled by an appointment of the president.

ARTICLE VIII: ISSUANCE OF CHECKS AND AUDITS

SECTION 1. A motion must be made, seconded, and approved for the purchase of all items outside of normal business expenses. For a check to be drafted on the account of NYFA, it shall require 1 signature; however, there shall be at least 2 signatures on the account. Checks or debits not exceeding the amount of \$250.00 may be drafted without prior consent but must be approved by the Board of Directors at the next regular or special meeting. The NYFA Board must approve any check or debit larger than \$250.00 before issuance.

SECTION 2. This Association shall operate both financially and administratively on a yearly basis, beginning January 1. NYFA will conduct a financial audit every year. The financial records shall be closed December 31st. The audit process must be done by at least 3 board members including the treasurer. The audit must be presented to the board at the January meeting.

ARTICLE IX: FIELDING OF TEAMS

SECTION 1. The maximum number of players per team is as follows: flag teams shall have a maximum of 25 players per team and tackle teams should have a maximum of 28 players per team.

SECTION 2. Prior to registration, the Football Commissioner will populate a roster of all players returning to the same age/division as determined by age requirements. These players will be considered as returning players. Returning players will have a position held on their returning team when calculating minimum and maximum player requirements. If the player fails to register by the end of the final open registration, the player will be removed from the team roster. If there is a waiting list, the next available player will be moved into that position.

SECTION 3. If there is a conflict between a player's parent and a team that cannot be resolved by any means, then the parent may petition the board in writing to have the player re-enter the draft.

SECTION 4. If a coach/parent's player is returning to the same age/weight division and would like to apply for a vacancy for the other teams Head Coach in the same age/weight division, they must petition the Executive Board for approval. Upon approval, the coach can be granted two coach's options.

SECTION 5. When adding a new team to a division, all returning players will return to their same team and there will be an expansion draft (see STJFL expansion draft procedures).

SECTION 6. When dissolving a team in a division when multiple teams exist, the following guidelines should be used.

1. Does the team have an existing coach that was certified to coach in the previous year?
2. How many players does each returning team have? Consider dissolving the team with the least returners.
3. Consider color and how brothers/sisters will be affected.

ARTICLE X: DIVISIONS, AGES, AND WEIGHT

SECTION 1. FLAG DIVISION: To qualify for a flag football team, the participant must be at the age of (6) six or under on August 1st. Any participant over the age of (6) six, is not eligible for the flag division. There is no weight limit for flag division football players. To qualify for a flag cheer team, the participant must be at the age of (6) six years old or under on August 1st.

SECTION 2. PEEWEE TACKLE DIVISION: To qualify for a Pee-Wee tackle football team, the participant must be age (8) eight or under on August 1st. Any Pee-Wee tackle participant weighing more than 95 lbs. will be restricted to a Line Only "LO" position as defined in section 5 of this article. To qualify for a pee-wee cheer team, the participant must be age (8) eight and under on August 1st.

SECTION 3. JUNIOR TACKLE DIVISION: To qualify for a Junior Tackle football team, a participant must be age (10) ten and under on August 1st. Any Junior tackle participant weighing more than 120 lbs. will be restricted to a Line Only "LO" position as defined in section 5 of this article. To qualify for a junior cheer team, the participant must be age (10) ten and under on August 1st.

SECTION 4. SENIOR TACKLE DIVISION: To qualify for a Senior Tackle football team, the participant must be at the age of (12) twelve years old or under on August 1st. Any Senior tackle participant weighing more than 140 lbs. will be restricted to a Line Only "LO" position as defined in section 5 of this article. To qualify for a senior cheer team, the participant must be age (12) twelve and under on August 1st.

Any participant who is enrolled in the 7th grade or higher of the ensuing football season shall not be allowed to compete in GTYFC.

SECTION 5. EXCEEDING WEIGHT: If a player exceeds weight in their division, they may move up to the next division. However, they must follow the weight requirements of the next division.

Line Only "LO" - If a player exceeds the maximum running back weight for the division they will be considered a Line Only "LO" player and be restricted to a lineman position tackle to tackle on offense, and must be in a 2 or 3 or 4 point stance when playing offense, between the offensive tackles on defense and must be in a 3 or 4 point stance, and line of scrimmage for kick off receive only. On defense, the player must line up from "A" gap to tackle. The player may pull as a lead blocking lineman if they started on the line of scrimmage. The player may not advance the ball under any circumstances and the ball will be blown dead at the point of possession. The player's helmet and certification card must be marked accordingly.

ARTICLE XI: DRAFTING OF TEAMS

SECTION 1. REGULAR DRAFT POLICY

- a. Players shall return to the team from the previous season if they qualify for the same division. If a parent and/or coach requests a certain player not return to the same team, they must submit a request in writing to the local charter association's board of directors for approval. If approved the player will be put back into the draft.
- b. A draft will be conducted for all new players except coach's options (protected players) but they must count as a draft pick.
- c. Head coaches of each team will draw for draft order.
- d. If a returning player has a brother who is eligible for the open draft, that brother will be placed on the same team and count towards the team's total roster prior to draft. When there are siblings entering the open draft; if one of the siblings is drafted, the other sibling must be picked in the next available round.
EXAMPLE: If the first sibling is drafted in the second round and the coach takes an option in the 3rd round the other sibling must be taken in the 4th.
- e. The charter association will hold a tryout and players will be drafted by talent. There will be no hand-picking of teams.
- f. The teams will draw numbers to determine who will pick first in the draft.
- g. If the teams in the same division have a differential, the team with the least number of players will be awarded 2 for 1 pick starting in the 1st round until the number of players is equal. Once teams have reached even numbers the draft will be 1 for 1 for the remainder of the draft. The draft will end with each team picking 1 for 1 in the last round.
- h. Players that do not participate in the draft will become a hat pick. Hat picks will be done after the draft pool is empty and will be to the team next in line to pick.
- i. Each team will have 2 coach's options picks per year. The first option must be taken in the 3rd round and second option in the 5th. If the head coach's child is eligible for the draft, the child must be taken in the 5th round. All options must be declared prior to the draft and recorded as a draft pick. If the head coach's child is a returning player on that team from the previous year, then that child is not considered a new player and does not need to be drafted.
- j. Trading will be allowed after the open draft is complete. Coaches will have 10 minutes to trade players that are not returning players. The trade must be recorded with the Commissioner.
- k. Draft shall abide by Article XII, Section 4.
- l. If there is an expansion team in any division, see expansion draft policy.

SECTION 2. EXPANSION TEAM DRAFT POLICY

Expansion teams are defined as a team that did not exist the previous year and will be formed. The expansion draft will take place prior to any tryout and open draft. (Time will be set by the participating association). The expansion draft policy is defined as follows:

- a. Each existing team will protect 33% of the players on the current roster. (i.e., 15 players, you protect 5).
- b. If there are brothers on an existing team and the team wants to protect 1 of them, they must protect both and both will count towards your 33%. If the brothers are unprotected and the expansion team picks one brother, the other brother must be also taken and will count as part of the “equal percentage”.
- c. Existing teams with fewer than 3 players will not participate in the expansion draft.
- d. The expansion draft will last as many rounds as needed.
- e. The expansion team will pick from the pool of unprotected players in the expansion draft until their numbers are equal to existing teams. They must pick equal percentages from both teams
- f. The remaining players not picked by the expansion team will return to their respective teams.
- g. This will conclude the expansion draft.

Additional Information:

- a. The net effect is that each returning team will lose no more than 33% of their players.
- b. Expansion team’s roster should not exceed any existing team’s roster when the draft is completed.
- c. Brothers that are on the same team are considered as an “option”.
 - a. If the expansion team drafts one of the brothers, they receive both players to count towards their team total.

EXAMPLE: If an association is expanding from 1 to 2 teams – the existing team protects 33% of its players, the remainder go into the expansion draft. If the existing team protected 5 players, the expansion team would pick 5 of the eligible players. The remaining unselected players would return to their respective team.

In the case where an association is going from 2 to 3 teams – both existing teams protect 33% of its players, the remainder go into the expansion draft.

The expansion team will select players until it is even with the existing team with the least number of players. At that point, the low existing team will pull back one returnee to its team. Then the expansion team will select another player from the appropriate team, keeping percentages equal. This will take place until all three teams are equal to the High existing teams 33%. Then remaining players will return to their respective teams.

- d. As defined in the Draft Section 1.a: “Players shall return to the team from the previous season if they qualify for the same division. Once a player is selected by a designated team, the player will stay with that team unless he/she moves into another division. If the participant has a sibling playing in the age/weight division they are moving into, they will be placed on the same team.
- e. If a player has siblings in another division that is moving up the sibling moving up is not eligible for the expansion draft or draft open and will count against the existing team’s total after the expansion draft. He will not be part of the existing teams 33% if the returning sibling is selected as a protected player.
- f. There are “NO” coach’s options for teams during the expansion draft. This should be considered when protecting players.

SECTION 3. ADDITIONAL DRAFT PROCEDURES

- a. The GTYFC Board must be notified in writing no less than 48 hours prior to any draft taking place. Failure to notify the GTYFC Board will result in the draft being void and possibly disciplinary actions for the association as determined by the GTYFC Board. Associations may request an emergency draft with less than the required notice if approved by the GTYFC Board.
- b. Any team that participates in any draft must ensure during the draft that the end results abide by the 60/40 Rule by monitoring during the draft the percentage of the two age ranges for that division. If the draft results do not conform to the rule, then teams must use the open trading period to bring the draft into compliance. If a trade cannot be agreed to, then the Association shall either force a trade, reconduct the draft, or conduct a full draft of that age division. Teams that do not abide by the 60/40 rule, unless otherwise decided by the GTYFC Board, shall not be certified.
 1. 60/40 Rule- no drafted team shall be composed of more than 60 percent or less than 40 percent of either age group in their respective division.

Example: A Peewee draft ends with 2 teams of 20 players. Neither team can have more than 60% of all 8-year-olds or less than 40% of all 7-year-olds in the division.

Situation Example: Peewee Draft of two teams with 40 players total including (23) 8-year-olds, (17) 7-year-olds. Neither team may have more than (13)- 8-year-olds or less than (10)- 8-year-olds, or more than (10)- 7-year-olds or less than (7)- 7-year-olds.
Drafts Results: Team A (12)- 8-year-olds, (8)- 7-year-olds and Team B (11)- 8-year-olds, (9)- 7-year-olds) meet the 60/40 Rule.

ARTICLE XIII: COACHES POLICY

SECTION 1. Anyone holding a head coaching position for football or cheerleading in NYFA must be at least 21 years of age. Anyone holding an assistant coaching position for football or cheer must be at least 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. Interest for Head Coach positions may be submitted to NYFA during the registration period and selection will be made at the close of registration on June 15th.

SECTION 3. Interest for Assistant Coach positions may be submitted to NYFA during the registration period. Assistant Coaches will be selected by Head Coaches of each team. Each Head Coach can select up to 5 Assistant Coaches. NYFA will not certify more than 5 Assistant Coaches for each team.

SECTION 4. All volunteers in a Coaching position must successfully complete the online Coach's Certification through USA Football and any other safety classes which may be required by NYFA and/or GTYFC at the expense of the Coach.

SECTION 5. The head coach or assistant coach must be present at all practices and games.

SECTION 6. All student demonstrators will be under the supervision of the head or assistant coach. They cannot conduct practice.

SECTION 7. No coach shall receive any payment of cash or kind for services rendered as a NYFA coach. This includes any coach, expert, consultant, or choreographer regardless of his/her roster status.

SECTION 8. All coaches and adult volunteers must also have a visible official NYFA photo ID to be anywhere on the playing or practice field. Head coaches' IDs shall be RED and Assistant coaches' IDs shall be white.

SECTION 9. Any Coach ejected from a game will be brought before the GTYFC Board for review within 6 days of the incident. Penalty for ejection from a game will be determined by the GTYFC Board and could include suspension of the coach and monetary fine to the charter association.

SECTION 10. Removal of a Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach will be at the discretion of NYFA Board Members.

ARTICLE XIV: COACHING REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. Football: NYFA will appoint one head coach per team and approve up to 5 assistant coaches.

SECTION 2. Cheerleading: NYFA will appoint one coach and approve up to 3 assistants for each cheerleading squad.

SECTION 3. Coaches are selected according to NYFA Coaches Policy and GTYFC Background Guidelines.

SECTION 4. All coaching personnel should be of unquestionable character with profound interest in and knowledge of youth and football.

ARTICLE XV: ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Any additions, deletions, or amendments to the NYFA Constitution and By-Laws can only be accomplished per a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board Members and Board members as described, duly notified, fourteen (14) days following a proposed motion for change that has been seconded and received by writing by the membership. Rules and policies may be amended by 2/3 vote by the Executive Board and Board Members. Rules and policies cannot be amended after May 31st.

ARTICLE XVI: NYFA GOVERNING POLICIES ON ATHLETIC OPERATIONS

SECTION 1. Player Participation Requirements

- a. Each participant will be allowed to participate in all games and practices unless prevented by the Head Coach, Safety Coordinator, and/or Cheer Coordinator for disciplinary, health, or registration purposes (certifications).
 - a. All participants will be certified by GTYFC to participate.
 - b. If the participant does not attend the scheduled certification, the participant will be ineligible for the entire season (NO REFUNDS).
- b. Under normal circumstances (defined below), participants will participate in the game. This can include special teams play.

Normal Circumstances are defined to mean the player is:

 - i. Properly registered.
 - ii. Following principles of training as outlined by the Coach.
 - iii. Not suffering from a limiting injury nor sustained an injury during the game, which in the option of the coach should sideline a player
 - iv. Not in violation of Player Code of Conduct
 - v. Any participant who wants to participate.
- c. The rules for appropriate conduct which are followed in school, will be followed at NYFA practices, games, and any other NYFA function.

- d. Unexcused absence from practices will be handled accordingly.
 - a. Football: Two or more missed practices during a week can result in the player being suspended for that week's game.
 - b. Cheerleading: Failure to attend 75% of practice, unless documented as an excused absence, will result in not participating in that week's game.
 - c. Excused absences include injury, illness, family commitments, and/or school or church functions.
 - d. Unexcused absences include attending/participating in other athletic events or dance commitments.
- e. All Players are subject to NYFA and GTYFC Rules.